

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report CL 07-2025

Council Meeting Date: March 18, 2025

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council

FROM: Stephanie Troyer-Boyd, Director of Corporate Services

RE: Accessibility Award Initiative

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CL 07-2025 regarding Accessibility Award Initiative be received; and

THAT the request by the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee to create a Lambton Shores Accessibility Award be approved; and

THAT the award criteria be provided to Council for endorsement prior to the launch.

SUMMARY

This report is presented to provide request the creation of Accessibility Award initiative sponsored by the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2024 meeting of the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee (LSAAC), staff were asked to bring forward information on an accessibility award initiative to be sponsored by the committee. The committee had heard of other municipalities, specifically Sarnia, that award annual Accessibility Awards to individuals, businesses or organizations in their communities.

Staff prepared a report for the February 2025 meeting of the LSAAC relating to an Accessibility Award and the committee passed the following resolution:

THAT the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee requests Council to consider a Lambton Shores Accessibility Award Initiative

The existing annual Volunteer Award program has an accessibility award that is given to an individual and/or group for contribution to the elimination of barriers to people with disabilities, and/or the inclusion of people with disabilities in all facets of the community.

Staff recommend the separation of the accessibility award from the Volunteer Award program to establish a distinct Accessibility Award, overseen by the Accessibility Advisory Committee. This change seeks to illuminate and celebrate accessibility advocates in our community, benefiting from dedicated attention through the committee's administration.

The proposed Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee Award could recognize and celebrate individuals, organizations or businesses that demonstrate a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity in the municipality. The award could honour those who actively work to remove barriers, enhance accessibility, and foster a more inclusive community. Staff have reviewed several programs that other municipalities have in place and would suggest a program where the award recipient would:

- Show exceptional dedication to promoting accessibility.
- Demonstrate strong leadership in advancing accessibility.
- Work to create a more inclusive community.
- Make a significant impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

Staff would suggest that the award be presented by members of the committee at a Council meeting.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

None.

CONSULTATION

Steve McAuley, CAO
Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services